IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument comprising:

an insertion portion;

a treatment unit which is provided on the tip portion of the insertion portion and which is capable of turning as to the shaft of the insertion portion ~~and capable of opening and closing~~, the treatment unit including first and second treatment pieces so as to be capable of opening and closing;

an operating unit provided at the base portion of the insertion portion and which is capable of turning as to the shaft of the insertion portion ~~and capable of opening and closing~~, the operating unit being capable of operating to turn the treatment unit, and the operating unit including first and second operation handles so as to be capable of opening and closing;

a supporting member linking the treatment unit and the operating unit; [[and]]

a ~~plurality of~~ driving [[rods]] rod arrayed in parallel or generally in parallel with the supporting member, so as to be capable of advancing and retreating;

a first link mechanism capable of converting opening/closing actions of the operating unit into advancing/retreating actions of the driving rod, regardless of a turning position of the operating unit; and

a second link mechanism for converting advancing/retreating actions of the driving rod into opening/closing actions of treatment unit, regardless of a turning position of the treatment unit, wherein

~~the opening/closing operating means of the treatment unit and the opening/closing operating means of the operating unit~~ the first and second link mechanisms are in a parallel mapping relation following the insertion portion.

2. (Original) A surgical instrument according to Claim 1, wherein the distance between two joints, provided at the tip side and base side of at least one driving rod of the driving rods, and having axes in a direction perpendicular to opening/closing shafts of the treatment unit, and the distance between two turning shafts, provided at the tip side and base side of the supporting member, and having axes in a direction perpendicular to opening/closing shafts of the treatment unit, are configured so as to be the same length.

3. (Original) A surgical instrument according to Claim 1, wherein the treatment unit comprises a turning treatment piece capable of turning as to the supporting member, and an opening/closing treatment piece linked to the turning treatment piece through a first opening/closing shaft so as to be capable of opening and closing;

and wherein the distance between a first joint provided to the base portion of the opening/closing treatment piece and a second joint adjacent to the base side of the first joint, and the distance between a first turning shaft provided to the base portion of the turning treatment piece and a second turning shaft adjacent to the base side of the first turning shaft, are configured so as to be the same length.

4. (Original) A surgical instrument according to Claim 2, wherein the treatment unit comprises a turning treatment piece capable of turning as to the supporting member, and an opening/closing treatment piece linked to the turning treatment piece through a first opening/closing shaft so as to be capable of opening and closing;

and wherein the distance between a first joint provided to the base portion of the opening/closing treatment piece and a second joint adjacent to the base side of the first joint, and the distance between a first turning shaft provided to the base portion of the turning treatment piece and a second turning shaft adjacent to the base side of the first turning shaft, are configured so as to be the same length.

5. (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument according to Claim [[1]]3, wherein the operating unit comprises a turning operating piece capable of turning as to the supporting member, and an opening/closing operating piece linked to the turning operating piece through a second opening/closing shaft so as to be capable of opening and closing;

and wherein the longitudinal distance between a third joint provided to the opening/closing operating piece and a fourth joint provided on the driving rod essentially adjacent to the third joint, and the distance between the first joint provided to the base portion of the opening/closing treatment piece and a second joint adjacent to the base side of the first joint, are configured so as to be the same length.

6. (Original) A surgical instrument according to Claim 2, wherein the operating unit comprises a turning operating piece capable of turning as to the supporting member, and an opening/closing operating piece linked to the turning operating piece through a second opening/closing shaft so as to be capable of opening and closing;

and wherein the longitudinal distance between a third joint provided to the opening/closing operating piece and a fourth joint provided on the driving rod essentially adjacent to the third joint, and the distance between the first joint provided to the base portion of the opening/closing treatment piece and a second joint adjacent to the base side of the first joint, are configured so as to be the same length.

7. (Original) A surgical instrument according to Claim 3, wherein the operating unit comprises a turning operating piece capable of turning as to the supporting member, and an opening/closing operating piece linked to the turning operating piece through a second opening/closing shaft so as to be capable of opening and closing;

and wherein the longitudinal distance between a third joint provided to the opening/closing operating piece and a fourth joint provided on the driving rod essentially adjacent to the third joint, and the distance between the first joint provided to the base portion of the opening/closing treatment piece and a second joint adjacent to the base side of the first joint, are configured so as to be the same length.

8. (New) The surgical instrument according to Claim 1, wherein the operating unit and the treatment unit are capable of turning in first and second directions, the first direction being up/down direction and the second direction being left/right direction.

9. (New) The surgical instrument according to Claim 8, wherein the second link mechanism comprises a second up/down turn arm portion which is connected to the second treatment piece and which turns in the first direction with respect to a following arm and a second left/right turn arm portion which is connected to the second up/down turn arm portion and which turns in the second direction with respect to the driving rod; and

the first link mechanism comprises a first up/down turn arm portion which is connected to the second operation handle and which turns in the first direction with respect to the following arm, and a first left/right turn arm portion which is connected to the first up/down turn arm portion and which turns in the second direction with respect to the driving rod.

10. (New) The surgical instrument according to Claim 9, wherein a distance between a first shaft pivotally connecting the first and second treatment pieces and a second shaft pivotally connecting the second up/down turn arm portion and the second left/right turn arm portion is equal to a distance between a first pivot pivotally connecting the first and second operation handles and a second pivot pivotally connecting the first up/down turn arm portion and the first left/right turn arm portion; and

a distance between the second shaft and a third pivot pivotally connecting the second left/right turn arm portion and the driving rod is equal to a distance between the second pivot and a fourth pivot pivotally connecting the first left/right turn arm portion and the driving rod.